

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9746
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0247

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: FR CH US SN ID RP
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S VISIT TO CHINA

REF: PEKING 238 (NOTAL)

1. FRENCH EMBASSY IN PEKING HAS PROVIDED USLO WITH RELATIVELY
EXTENSIVE BRIEFING ON TALKS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER
BARRE, FOREIGN MINISTER DEGUINGAUD AND VICE PREMIER TENG
HSIAO-PING AND FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA ON JANUARY 21.
CONVERSATIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SOUTHEAST ASIA.

2. TENG OBSERVED THAT SINGAPORE WAS OBVIOUSLY WAITING FOR
INDONESIA TO MOVE BEFORE RELATIONS WERE NORMALIZED WITH THE
PRC. THAT WAS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRC. THEYHAD
TOLD THE INDONESIANS THAT IF MORE TIME WAS NEEDED BEFORE
JAKARTA COULD MOVE TO NORMALIZE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THAT
THIS REPRESENTED NO PROBLEM FOR THE PRC.

3. INDOCHINA. TENG TOLD BARRE THAT THE PRC COULD NOT
TAKE SIDES IN THE PRESENT INDOCHINESE CONFLICT BECAUSE
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THEY HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES. THE PRC
HAD HELPED THE VIETNAMESE MORE THAN THE SOVIETS HAD AND
HAD ALSO SENT SOME AID TO THE CAMBODIANS. HE NOTED THAT
THE CAMBODIANS HAD NOT REQUIRED MUCH AID IN THEIR
STRUGGLE AGAINST LON NOL BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN LARGELY
SELF-RELIANT. TENG SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD VISITED FRANCE
MANY PEOPLE HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE CAMBODIAN FORCED

EVACUATION OF THEIR CITIES WAS INHUMAN. HE SAID, "WE WERE NOT SURE AT THE TIME BUT NOW HAVE CHANGED OUR VIEW; IF THE CITIES HAD NOT BEEN EVACUATED THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN TROUBLE." HE SAID THAT THE CAMBODIANS COULD NOT HAVE COMMITTED AGGRESSION SINCE THE WAR IS BEING FOUGHT ON THEIR TERRITORY AND ADDED, "AGGRESSORS NEVER COME TO A GOOD END." THE PRC POSITION ON THE WAR WAS SIMPLE: THERE SHOULD BE A CEASEFIRE, BOTH SIDES SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM EACH OTHER'S RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES AND A SOLUTION SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. TENG DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE CONFLICT IN INDOCHINA AND WAR BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA, SAYING THAT AS SOON AS THERE WAS DISORDER THE SOVIETS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION. HE NOTED, "SOME DAY THAT THE CHINESE SHOULD MEDIATE BUT WE FEEL THAT WOULD MAKE THE SITUATION TOO COMPLEX."

4. BARRE ASKED ABOUT SIHANOUK AND PENN NOUTH. "THEY ARE BOTH CAMBODIAN PATRIOTS," SAID TENG.

5. ASKED ABOUT THE TENG YING-CHAO VISIT, TENG SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN PLANNED A LONG TIME AGO; IT WAS MERE COINCIDENCE THAT SHE WAS IN PHNOM PENH AT THIS TIME. BARRE ASKED TENG WHY THE CHINESE THOUGHT THE VIETNAMESE HAD ATTACKED CAMBODIA AND TENG REPLIED THAT THE VIETNAMESE FOR DECADES HAD BEEN THINKING OF CREATING A "GREATER VIETNAM."
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